CLAIMS

We claim:

1   Claim 1 (original):   An article of manufacture for use in a computer system for converting a text

2   representation of a number into a numeric representation of the number, said article of manufacture

3   comprising a computer-useable storage medium having a computer program embodied in said

4   medium which causes the computer system to execute the method steps comprising:

5   converting the text representation of the number into a description of the number's

6   format;

7   mapping the description of the number's format to a sequence of conversion code;

8   and

9   converting the text representation of the number into the numeric representation of the

10   number by use of the sequence of conversion code.

1   Claim 2 (original):   The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the description of the number's

2   format is a picture string.

1   Claim 3 (original):   The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the text representation of the

2   number is converted into a description of the number's format by a translation instruction using a

3   translate table.

1   Claim 4 (original):   The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the sequence of conversion code

2   for converting the text representation of the number into the numeric representation of the number

3   comprises an assignment statement.

1   Claim 5 (original):   The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the mapping of the description of

2   the number's format to a sequence of conversion code comprises mapping the description of the

3   number's format to an index which is used to transfer control to the sequence of conversion code

4   corresponding to the description of the number's format.

1   Claim 6 (original):   The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein if the text representation of the

2   number does not convert into the description of the number's format, then not executing the

3   subsequent mapping and converting steps.

1   Claim 7 (original):   A method for use in a computer system for converting a text representation of a
2   number into a numeric representation of the number, said method comprising:

3   converting the text representation of the number into a description of the number's
4   format;

5   mapping the description of the number's format to a sequence of conversion code;
6   and

7   converting the text representation of the number into the numeric representation of the
8   number by use of the sequence of conversion code.

1   Claim 8 (original):   The method of claim 7 wherein the description of the number's format is a
2   picture string.

1   Claim 9 (original):   The method of claim 7 wherein the text representation of the number is
2   converted into a description of the number's format by a translation instruction using a translate
3   table.

1   Claim 10 (original):   The method of claim 7 wherein the sequence of conversion code for
2   converting the text representation of the number into the numeric representation of the number
3   comprises an assignment statement.

1   Claim 11 (original):   The method of claim 7 wherein the mapping of the description of the
2   number's format to a sequence of conversion code comprises mapping the description of the
3   number's format to an index which is used to transfer control to the sequence of conversion code

4   corresponding to the description of the number's format.

1   Claim 12 (original):   The method of claim 7 wherein if the text representation of the number does

2   not convert into the description of the number's format, then not executing the subsequent mapping

3   and converting steps.

Claim 13 (original): A computer system for converting a text representation of a number into a numeric representation of the number, said computer system comprising:

        a converter for converting the text representation of the number into a description of the number's format;

        a translator for mapping the description of the number's format to a sequence of conversion code; and

        a converter for converting the text representation of the number into the numeric representation of the number by use of the sequence of conversion code.

Claim 14 (original): The computer system of claim 13 wherein the description of the number's format is a picture string.

Claim 15 (original): The computer system of claim 13 wherein the text representation of the number is converted into a description of the number's format by a translation instruction using a translate table.

Claim 16 (original): The computer system of claim 13 wherein the sequence of conversion code for converting the text representation of the number into the numeric representation of the number comprises an assignment statement.

Claim 17 (original): The computer system of claim 13 wherein the mapping of the description of the number's format to a sequence of conversion code comprises mapping the description of the number's format to an index which is used to transfer control to the sequence of conversion code

4   corresponding to the description of the number's format.

1   Claim 18 (original):   The computer system of claim 13 wherein if the text representation of the

2   number does not convert into the description of the number's format, then not executing the

3   subsequent mapping and converting steps.